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**Review and implementation of the Concluding Document of the Twelfth Special Session of the General Assembly: United Nations disarmament fellowship, training and advisory services**

# United Nations disarmament fellowship, training and advisory services programme

## Report of the Secretary-General

*Summary*

Fellowships on disarmament were awarded to 24 officials in 2009 and to 25 officials in 2010. The programme of studies continues to be structured in three segments. The first segment is held at the United Nations Office at Geneva and introduces the fellows to various aspects of multilateral negotiations on disarmament. It also includes a study visit organized by the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs. The second segment of the programme comprises study visits to international organizations of relevance in the field of disarmament and Member States, upon their invitation. Specifically, the fellows visit the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization, the International Atomic Energy Agency in Vienna and the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons in The Hague. At the invitation of the Governments of Germany, Japan and China, recipients of the fellowship programme participate in country study visits. The third segment of the programme, which takes place at United Nations Headquarters, is aimed at familiarizing the fellows with the work of the First Committee of the General Assembly and of the Office for Disarmament Affairs. In 2009, the programme ran from 24 August to 23 October. The programme in 2010 is scheduled to run from 23 August to 22 October. In an effort to promote gender mainstreaming, the United Nations selected 22 women to participate in the fellowship programme in the biennium 2009-2010, who account for 45 per cent of the total awarded fellowships.

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To date, the programme trained 808 officials from 159 Member States, a large number of whom hold positions of responsibility in the field of disarmament and international security with their own Governments. The Secretary-General is pleased to note the contribution of the programme of fellowships on disarmament to promoting a greater awareness of the importance of disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control. The programme continues to afford an important opportunity to facilitate a better understanding of the work of the Office for Disarmament Affairs and of the other institutions working in the areas of international disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control at the global level, as well as of the security concerns of Member States. In addition, the Secretary-General is gratified to note that the number of women nominated fellows has remained high during the current biennium. The Secretary-General expresses his appreciation to all Member States and international organizations which have supported the programme throughout the years, thereby contributing to its success.

# I. Introduction

1. In its resolution 63/79, entitled "United Nations disarmament fellowship, training and advisory services", the General Assembly, inter alia, commended the Secretary-General for the diligence with which the programme had continued to be carried out and requested him to continue to implement annually the Geneva-based programme within existing resources and to report to the Assembly at its sixty-fifth session. The present report is submitted pursuant to that request.

# II. Programme of fellowships on disarmament

## A. Fellowships for 2009 and 2010

2. In 2009, fellowships were awarded to the following 24 officials:

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| Ms. Lianna Mnkrtchyan | Armenia |
| Mr. Aykhan Hajizada | Azerbaijan |
| Mr. S. M. Mahbubul Alam | Bangladesh |
| Mr. Prak Nguon Hong | Cambodia |
| Ms. Thérèse Christiane Hanglog | Cameroon |
| Mr. Juan Pablo Jara | Chile |
| Mr. Zhao Kun | China |
| Ms. Aliaa Eldeeb | Egypt |
| Ms. Dessy Oneida Reyes-Yanez | Honduras |
| Mr. Attila Juhász | Hungary |
| Mr. Taghi Mohammadpour Ferami | Iran (Islamic Republic of) |
| Mr. Thailesh Kumar Chamane | Mauritius |
| Ms. Siang Tial | Myanmar |
| Mr. Dilip Kumar Paudel | Nepal |
| Ms. Monika Lipert-Sowa | Poland |
| Ms. Jang Se Young | Republic of Korea |
| Ms. Elena Vodopolova | Russian Federation |
| Mr. Abdoulaye Bathily | Senegal |
| Mr. Klemen Polak | Slovenia |
| Mr. Madi Elfatih Ali Ibrahim | Sudan |
| Mr. Matteo Fachinotti | Switzerland |

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|---|---|
| Mr. Goran Trajkov | The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia |
| Mr. Artem Vorobyov | Ukraine |
| Mr. Shukhratjon Yigitaliyev | Uzbekistan |

3. In 2010, fellowships were awarded to the following 25 officials:

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| Ms. Radia Fatiha Kaddour | Algeria |
| Ms. Maria Victoria Picazo | Argentina |
| Mr. Josué Castro | Australia |
| Ms. Rinchen Dema | Bhutan |
| Ms. Armelle Emassi Tchago | Cameroon |
| Ms. Hongliu Zhang | China |
| Mr. Carlos Enrique Valencia Muñoz | Colombia |
| Ms. Petra Rubesova | Czech Republic |
| Mr. Vasil Rubashvili | Georgia |
| Ms. Adisa Yakubu | Ghana |
| Mr. Fodé Moussa Bangoura | Guinea |
| Mr. Maytham Al-Rikabi | Iraq |
| Mr. Yuki Kimura | Japan |
| Ms. Kumiushay Suiumbaeva | Kyrgyzstan |
| Mr. Bachir Saleh Azzam | Lebanon |
| Mr. Gediminas Kliukas | Lithuania |
| Ms. Angela Mija Franckline Rasoarinjafy | Madagascar |
| Ms. Madhvi Seebaluck | Mauritius |
| Mr. Amartuvshin Amgalanbayar | Mongolia |
| Ms. Stanica Andic | Montenegro |
| Ms. Narcisa Daciana Vladulescu | Romania |
| Mr. Alexander Vladimirovich Kuklin | Russian Federation |
| Ms. Kesarin Phanarangsan | Thailand |
| Ms. Silvana Cecilia Della Gatta Alvarez | Uruguay |
| Mr. Giang Dang | Viet Nam |

4. Over the years, the efforts by the United Nations to promote gender mainstreaming has resulted in an increase in the number of women recipients of the fellowship. During the biennium 2009-2010, in particular, 22 of the 49 fellowships were granted to women.

## B. Programme of studies

5. The United Nations programme of fellowships on disarmament is implemented by the Geneva branch of the Office for Disarmament Affairs. In 2009, the programme ran from 24 August to 23 October. In 2010, the programme is scheduled to run from 23 August to 22 October. The programme of studies is structured in three segments: (a) activities at the United Nations Office at Geneva; (b) study visits to intergovernmental organizations of relevance in the field of disarmament and to Member States, upon invitation; and (c) activities at the United Nations Headquarters. The activities of the 2009 programme are summarized below. The 2010 programme will generally follow the 2009 syllabus, with updates to reflect recent developments in the field of disarmament and non-proliferation.

### First segment

6. The first segment of the programme takes place at the United Nations Office at Geneva and exposes the fellows to various aspects of multilateral work on disarmament, including potential negotiations, through the work of the Conference on Disarmament and of some Geneva-based research institutions dealing with disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control. The fellows attend the plenary meetings of the Conference on Disarmament and receive briefings on its history, achievements and methods of work. In 2009, the fellows were given lectures by the Director of the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining, the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR), the Quaker United Nations Office and by the staff of the Geneva branch of the Office for Disarmament Affairs. Such lectures covered the implementation of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines, the work of UNIDIR, the Convention on Cluster Munitions and its victim assistance provisions, the role of non-governmental organizations in the multilateral disarmament process, the Conference on Disarmament, the Office for Disarmament Affairs, the Security Council, the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons, and the Biological Weapons Convention. In 2009, the fellows attended a seminar on the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty which was jointly organized by UNIDIR, the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization and the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Hungary to the United Nations Office at Geneva.

7. In addition to the above, the fellows participated in 2009 in a one-day visit to Bern, organized by the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs of Switzerland, during which they were briefed on Swiss foreign and security policies, with a focus on nuclear disarmament, non-proliferation, cluster munitions and related issues of international humanitarian law, as well as on the Geneva Declaration of Armed Violence and Development. A similar visit is scheduled during the 2010 programme.

8. While in Geneva, the fellows are also required to conduct research and to write the first draft of a paper on a topic of their choice relating to disarmament, non-proliferation and international security.

**Second segment**

9. The second segment of the programme comprises study visits to three intergovernmental organizations: the CTBTO Preparatory Commission, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in Vienna and the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) in The Hague. This second segment of the programme also includes study visits to Member States, at their invitation.

10. During the visit to the CTBTO Preparatory Commission, the fellows are briefed on the history and prospects of the Treaty, the current work of the Preparatory Commission and its verification regime. In 2010, the fellows are invited to make a field trip to the Radionuclide station at the Vienna International Centre. Furthermore, the CTBTO Preparatory Commission will organize a nuclear crisis-related simulation exercise for the benefit of the fellows.

11. The study visit to the IAEA comprises briefings on the Agency's safeguards system, the security of nuclear materials and radioactive sources and the IAEA illicit trafficking database. A visit to the Laboratory in the Department of Safeguards is also included.

12. At OPCW, the fellows are briefed on the work of the Organisation, its contributions to disarmament and non-proliferation efforts, as well as the origins and status of implementation of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction, its verification procedures and its implementation at the national level, as well as on issues of international cooperation and assistance.

13. In 2009, the Governments of Germany and Japan continued the established practice of inviting participants in the fellowship programme to visit national institutions and to attend lectures given by their government officials. In 2009, participants in the programme were also invited for a study visit by the Government of China. These country visits provide the fellows with an invaluable opportunity to become acquainted with the respective national foreign policies in the areas of international security through lectures, meetings with government officials and scholars and visits to existing relevant facilities. In 2010, the Governments of China, Germany and Japan have extended similar invitations.

14. The study visit to Germany in 2009 included briefings by representatives of the Federal Foreign Office and non-governmental organizations. The fellows also visited Nammo Buck GmbH in Pinnow, a plant for the demilitarization of ammunition, projectiles, rockets, mines, grenades, fuses and pyrotechnical material. During the visit, the fellows were briefed on environmentally friendly recycling and disposal processes for conventional ammunition and explosive products. The study visit to Germany in 2010 will include similar activities.

15. The Government of Japan and the administrations of the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki continued to organize invaluable activities for the recipients of the disarmament fellowship in 2009. In Tokyo, the fellows were briefed by officers of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. In Hiroshima, the fellows visited the Peace Memorial Museum, the Atomic Bomb Dome and the National Peace Memorial Hall

for the Atomic Bomb Victims. They were also briefed by the Mayor of Hiroshima and had the opportunity to listen to the testimony of a survivor of the atomic bombing. In Nagasaki, the fellows visited the Atomic Bomb Hypocentre and Museum, the Peace Memorial Hall and the Hill of Grace, and met with survivors of the atomic bombings, as well as scholars. The study visit to Japan in 2010 will include similar activities.

16. The study visit to China in 2009 included briefings by officers of the Department of Arms Control and Disarmament of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and by representatives of the China Arms Control and Disarmament Association, which coordinates academic and non-governmental research and activities regarding arms control and disarmament. The fellows also visited the China Institute of Atomic Energy. The study visit to China in 2010 will include similar activities.

**Third segment**

17. The third segment of the programme is held at United Nations Headquarters and is intended to familiarize the fellows with the mandate and activities of the Office for Disarmament Affairs and with the work of the First Committee of the General Assembly. This segment of the programme includes a series of lectures by senior staff of the Office for Disarmament Affairs, including the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, on the structure and responsibilities of the Office, as well as briefings by the Chairman of the First Committee and by members of delegations on items on the agenda of the Committee. The fellows attend meetings of the First Committee of the General Assembly, and panel discussions organized by the Office for Disarmament Affairs and the NGO Committee on Disarmament.

18. In addition, while in New York, the fellows participate in discussions moderated by the coordinator of the fellowship programme on selected disarmament topics, and take part in a practical exercise on the preparation and submission of draft resolutions for the First Committee of the General Assembly. The exercise includes a discussion of the drafts prepared by the fellows, the introduction of amendments and the process of taking action on draft resolutions. During this time, the fellows are asked to finalize their research papers and to make short presentations on their main views.

19. At the end of the programme, the fellows are awarded a certificate of participation by the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs.

## III. Conclusion

20. Launched in 1979 as a follow-up to a decision of the General Assembly taken at its tenth special session in 1978, the United Nations Programme of Fellowships on Disarmament is aimed at promoting expertise in disarmament in Member States, particularly in developing countries. During its 30 years of operation, the programme has trained 808 officials from 159 States. Many alumni hold positions of responsibility in the field of disarmament within their own Governments and at permanent missions to the United Nations. The large number of nominations received for the programme every year by the Office for Disarmament Affairs and the broad support for the biennial resolution on United Nations disarmament fellowship, training and advisory services is a testimony of the undiminished

interest of Governments in the programme. At the same time, the role of the programme in enhancing the capabilities of young diplomats for participation in arms control and disarmament deliberations and negotiations is recognized and appreciated by Member States.

21. The Secretary-General is pleased to note the contribution of the United Nations Programme of Fellowships on Disarmament to promoting greater awareness of the importance of disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control. The programme continues to play a decisive role in facilitating a better understanding of the work of the Office for Disarmament Affairs and of the other institutions working in the areas of international disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control at the global level, as well as of the security concerns of Member States. In addition, the Secretary-General is gratified to note that the number of women nominated has remained high during the current biennium.

22. The Secretary-General expresses his gratitude to all Member States and organizations which have supported the programme throughout the years, thereby contributing to its success. The Secretary-General extends his particular appreciation to the Governments of Germany and Japan for the continuation of their support to the programme, as well as to the Government of China and Switzerland for organizing study visits in 2009 and 2010. The Secretary-General also extends his grateful recognition to IAEA, OPCW and the CTBTO Preparatory Commission for their support to the programme.